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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants hereby add new claim 35 and cancel claims 7-8 and 16-17. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18-35 are pending in the present application.

Claims 8, 17 and 31 are objected to. Claims 1-3, 7, 10-12, 16, 27 and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,028,674 to Tognazzini et al. Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,295 to Klein. Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,695 to Naka. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of Naka. Claims 5, 9, 14, 18, 23 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of Naka. Claims 24, 26 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,706,037 to McIntyre. Claims 22, 25, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Tognazzini in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,212 to Smith.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

Regarding independent claim 1, the device recites limitations of previously pending claims 7 and 8. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the Office Action that claim 8 recites allowable subject matter. Allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The claims which depend from independent claim 1 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Regarding independent claim 10, the method recites limitations of previously pending claims 16 and 17. Claim 10 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the Office Action that claim 17 recites allowable subject matter. Allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

The claims which depend from independent claim 10 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the

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cited art.

Claims 20-21 are allowed.

Applicants hereby add new claim 35 which includes limitations of claims 1 and 31. New claim 35 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication that claim 31 recited allowable subject matter.


By this amendment, Applicants have attempted to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request a telephone call to the undersigned at 509-624-4276 if the application is not believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,  
Quintin T. Phillips et al.

By:

  
James D. Shaurette

Reg. No. 39,833

Date: 8/30/06

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